

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A medical device, comprising:
a linear elastic member having at least one localized area of flexibility formed by selectively heating ~~at least a~~ an intermediate portion of the member to a temperature sufficient to induce superelasticity in the member.

24. (original) The medical device of claim 23, wherein the linear elastic member defines a wire loop.

25. (original) The medical device of claim 23, wherein the linear elastic member defines a filter leg.

26. (original) The medical device of claim 23, wherein the linear elastic member defines a stent.

27. (original) The medical device of claim 23, wherein the linear elastic member defines a core wire.

28. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:
a linear elastic member having a localized superelastic region;
wherein the localized superelastic region is formed by heating ~~[[a]]~~ an intermediate portion of the linear elastic member to a temperature sufficient to form the localized superelastic region within the linear elastic member.

29. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member has only one localized superelastic region.

30. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the localized superelastic region comprises an articulation region.

31. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the localized superelastic region is formed by heating to a temperature that is at least as high as a final austenitic temperature of a material forming the linear elastic member.

32. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member is formed of a linear elastic nickel-titanium alloy and the localized superelastic region comprises, after the heating step, a superelastic nickel-titanium alloy.

33. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member defines a wire loop.

34. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member defines a filter leg.

35. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member defines a stent.

36. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member defines a core wire.